

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cable fiber storage and deployment canister comprising:

a substantially planar base having a first thumb segment, a second thumb segment, and a finger segment disposed between the first and the second thumb segments and extending beyond the extremities of the thumb segments, the base exhibiting a bottom perimeter that extends between the respective extremities of the first and second thumb segments;

an outer wall extending upwardly along the bottom of the base;

a bifurcated transverse barrier extending transversely across the finger segment at an end of the finger segment;

a reel disposed at about a center position on the base, the reel comprising:

a first substantially circular guide track wall having a first diameter;

a second substantially circular guide track wall arranged concentric to the first guide track wall and having a second diameter that is greater than the first diameter; and

a guide track defined by the first and second guide track walls and having an entry slot and an exit slot; and

a top flange comprising a first flange segment joined to the bifurcated transverse barrier and a second flange segment joined to the outer wall, wherein the top flange and the first thumb segment form an entry port for cable and the top flange and second thumb segment form an exit port for cable so that the cable may be routed into the entry port, wound around the reel so as to collect in the canister, routed into the guide track through the entry slot, wound around at least part of the guide track, routed out the exit slot, and routed out of the canister through the exit port.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An apparatus for storing and deploying cable, the apparatus comprising:

a substantially planar support surface having juxtaposed first and second thumb segments and a finger segment disposed between the first and the second thumb segments and having a distal portion extending beyond the first and the second thumb segments;

an outer wall extending upward from the support surface and positioned about at least a portion of ~~the~~ a perimeter of the support surface including and extending between the thumb segments; ~~and~~

~~concentric means positioned about a center of the support surface for storing and deploying optical fiber cable in a coiled manner that enables continuous control, within predetermined limits, of a radius that characterizes the degree to which the optical fiber cable is coiled.~~

a substantially circular inner wall having a first diameter, the inner wall being segmented, the inner wall being affixed to the support surface;

a substantially circular guide track wall having a second diameter smaller than the first diameter, the guide track wall being concentric with the inner wall, the guide track wall being substantially continuous, the guide track wall being affixed to the support surface;
and

a longitudinal cable channel disposed at the distal portion of the finger segment for routing cable linearly through the apparatus.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): An apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim [[3]] 2, further comprising:

a top flange joined to the bottom surface by the outer wall so that the top flange and the first thumb segment define an entry port for the cable and the top flange and the second thumb segment define an exit port for the cable.

Claim 5 (original): An apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim 4, wherein the outer wall comprises:

a first lateral section;

a second lateral section, opposed to the first lateral section;

an intermediate section;

a first arcuate corner section joining the first lateral section and the intermediate section;
and

a second arcuate corner section joining the intermediate section and the second lateral section.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim 4, wherein the inner wall comprises a plurality of segments including a first pair of adjacent segments that define an entry slot and a second pair of adjacent segments that form an exit slot.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An apparatus for storing and deploying fiber optic cable as defined in Claim 6, wherein the entry slot and the exit slot are oblique to [[a]] the first diameter of the inner wall.

Claim 8 and 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): A cable storage and deployment device for providing continuous adjustment of optical fiber cable, the device comprising:

a substantially planar support surface having juxtaposed first and second thumb segments and a finger segment extending beyond the first and the second thumb segments;

a first outer wall, comprising:

~~A cable storage and deployment device for providing continuous adjustment of cable as defined in Claim 9, wherein the first outer wall comprises:~~

a first lateral section;

a second lateral section, opposed to the first lateral portion;

an intermediate section;

a first arcuate corner section joining the first lateral section and the intermediate section; and

a second arcuate corner section joining the intermediate section and the second lateral section;

a first top flange segment joined to the support surface by the first outer wall;

a second outer wall;

a second top flange segment joined to the support surface by the second outer wall; and

a guide track disposed on the support surface for storing and deploying cable in a reeled manner so that continuous control, within predetermined limits, may be maintained of the bending radius of the cable, the guide track comprising:

a substantially circular guide track wall having a first diameter, the guide track wall affixed to the support surface and extending orthogonally therefrom; and

a substantially circular inner wall affixed to the support surface and extending orthogonally therefrom, the inner wall arranged concentric to the guide track wall and having a second diameter that is greater than the first diameter of the guide track wall.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A cable storage and deployment device for providing continuous adjustment of cable as defined in Claim [[9]] 10, wherein the first top flange and the first thumb segment of the support surface form an entry port for cable and the second top flange and the second thumb segment of the support surface form an exit port for cable.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A cable storage and deployment device for providing continuous adjustment of cable as defined in Claim [[9]] 10, wherein the inner wall comprises a plurality of segments, including a first pair of adjacent segments that define an entry slot and a second pair of adjacent segments that define an exit slot.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A cable storage and deployment device for providing continuous adjustment of cable as defined in Claim 12, wherein the entry slot and the exit slot are oblique to [[a]] the second diameter of the inner wall.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A cable storage and deployment device for providing continuous adjustment of cable as defined in Claim [[9]] 10, wherein the guide track wall comprises means for restraining movement of a cable.

Claim 15 (original): A cable storage and deployment device for providing continuous adjustment of cable as defined in Claim 14, wherein the means for restraining movement of a cable includes retention tabs extending radially from the circumference of the guide track wall at upper positions of the guide track wall.

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (currently amended): An ~~integrated cable fiber storage and deployment canister~~ apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim [[16]] 2, wherein the longitudinal cable channel extends the width of the finger segment and is defined by a first transverse wall and a second transverse wall, the first and the second transverse walls extending in a mutually parallel orientation substantially orthogonal to the plane of the finger segment.

Claims 18 (currently amended): An ~~integrated cable fiber storage and deployment canister~~ apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim 17, wherein:

the first transverse wall comprises a plurality of alignment detents for a top flange; and
the second lateral wall comprises one or more alignment features for welding the top flange.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): An ~~integrated cable fiber storage and deployment canister~~ apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim [[16]] 2, wherein ~~the substantially planar base comprises the support surface~~ defines a substantially circular aperture that ~~is disposed concentric to the guide track wall and that has a diameter less than the second diameter, the circular aperture for enabling~~ enables the apparatus the canister to be stacked on a stacking post.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): An ~~integrated cable fiber storage and deployment canister~~ apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim 19, wherein the longitudinal cable channel extends the width of the finger segment and is defined by a first transverse wall and a second transverse wall, the first and the second transverse walls extending in a mutually parallel orientation substantially orthogonal to the plane of the finger segment.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): An ~~integrated cable fiber storage and deployment canister~~ apparatus for storing and deploying cable as defined in Claim 20, wherein:

- the first transverse wall comprises a plurality of alignment detents for a top flange; and
- the second transverse wall comprises at least one or more alignment features for the alignment to a welding apparatus for welding the top flange to the transverse wall.

Claims 22 to 27 (canceled).

Claims 28 to 31 (canceled).